

The Punta Gorda Herald

A. P. JORDAN Editor

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THURSDAY, SEPT. 24, 1908.

We have often heard of the "bogey man", but Ocala has a genuine Bogie lady.

The Pensacola News and the Harper Piano Co. of Jacksonville have each presented THE HERALD with a large picture of Wm. Jennings Bryan, for which they have our sincere thanks.

Starke Telegraph:—It seems to have escaped the notice of the state press but is a fact nevertheless that Frank Walpole, of the Manatee Record, has engaged in the drug business as a side line. With the profits from a drug store added to the income from his newspaper Frank will soon have money to throw at the birds.

The tax books of DeSoto county for 1908 just completed by Assessor F. M. Cooper, are a model of thoroughness, correctness and neatness; and we venture to say that, in these particulars, not one-half of the remaining forty-five counties show tax books to compare with those of DeSoto. The preparation of these books involves a surprising amount of work of the most tedious and trying character.

The Florida newspapers, all of which are invariably bright and interesting, were unusually so last week; and when they started coming in and we began clipping their many pithy pieces for reprinting in this paper, we pretty soon found that we couldn't reprint them all without enlarging THE HERALD to fifty or more pages and hiring a Mergenthaler machine to set them up.

School teachers! For the love of heaven and mankind, why don't you teach the children to write the English language correctly and to write it plainly? Manuscripts sent to THE HERALD show that, for forty years past, this duty of teachers has been utterly neglected. Several years ago, there were teachers in Florida public schools who themselves could not write English either plainly or correctly. Are there any now?

Wish our Jacksonville friends would quit sending us whole books to read about each and every one of their great enterprises. Here's a full day's reading about some big naval stores scheme they have on hand and a half-day's reading about their carnival—and over a hundred exchanges to look through and forty other things to do, and only one man to do them all. Simply can't do it, brethren. If you want anything printed in this paper, write it out yourselves, boil it down to half a column, typewrite it and send it in. Verb. sap.

Two Newspaper Failures.

The Tallahassee Sun, edited by Claude L'Engle, and the Fort Myers Breeze, published by W. E. Griffin, have suspended publication, the former on the 12th and the latter on the 17th inst. Both give the same reasons,—patronage insufficient to pay operating expenses, in consequence of which owners were running in debt. Both editors will engage for a time in other work to get money to pay off debts.

We believe that the failure of these two papers is due in large measure to the effects of the panic, from which doubtless all the newspapers of the state have suffered, but we think, too, that the very aggressive editorial conduct which characterized the Sun and the Breeze contributed to their failure. Both papers were intolerant of opposition, giving those who differed from them in opinion no credit for honesty; both were unduly severe in denouncing those who did not agree with them; they were bitter enemies of each other, and yet, strange to say, they advocated the same public policies and supported the same men for office.

No other papers in the State stood up so vigorously for Mr. Stockton or so viciously assailed Gen. Gilchrist. But we do not think that their support of Mr. Stockton and warfare upon Gen. Gilchrist had anything to do with their failure, though we believe that they lost patronage through their uncompromising and almost savage editorial onslaughts upon all persons and papers with whom they did not agree.

Any experienced newspaper man looking at the Sun and the Breeze for the past few months, could readily see that they were losing money. Indeed, it was perfectly plain that the business department of the Sun was utterly neglected, as its advertising patronage amounted to almost nothing. In this particular, the Breeze was better patronized, but it was evident that its editor, like some of the rest of us, was trying to do too much,—set type, gather news, write editorials, answer letters, entertain pleasant visitors, keep the books, make out and collect bills, solicit business, keep up the office supplies, look after every detail of the mechanical and other departments, and at the same time do the shopping and wood-chopping for a family. It takes a very active and vigorous and capable young man to do all these things successfully, and, if he has any nerves, he will break down in a few years.

Better to stop the papers than to keep on losing money and peace of mind, nerve force and health and spirits; and our friends Claude and Griffin did right in "throwing up the sponge."

We can truly say that we sympathize with them, sincerely deplore their misfortunes and hope they may soon retrieve their losses and resume journalistic work. For we did like to read their writings, venomous as they were, as they gave us something to think, talk, write and cuss about.

Indeed, we shall miss the Sun and the Breeze, and it will be a long time before we shall forget the havoc they made of our views and feelings.

Col. Tom Appleyard, of the Lake City Index, continues to inquire "what brand the editor of THE HERALD is using." Gracious, man! here in a cattle country, every man uses his own brand, or gets sent to the penitentiary and pardoned.

GOVERNMENT LANDS.

DeSoto Has 34,000 Acres Subject to Entry.

Concluded from page 1.
wild variety is found in our vicinity.

The growing of Agave rigida or Sisal hemp, the Spanish Bayonet, and Sansevieria, all fibre-bearing plants which grow with little attention and no fertilizer, wherever they can get a slight footing, would seem to hold out bright prospects to the pioneer in this venture.

Another new field for the pioneer is the growing of medical plants. Hundreds of them grow wild in the State; and where certain cultivated ones like the Castor Bean and Pawpaw have been tested, the yield has been everything that could be desired. The Department of Agriculture is authority for the statement that \$18,000,000 worth of medicinal plants are imported into this country every year. 700,000 pounds of Golden Seal, which is regarded as a very troublesome weed by the farmer in the North, is used in drugs every year, and from 95 cents to \$1.25 is paid per pound for it. The common Burdock, another wayside weed, is imported in large quantities.

Immense amounts of cordage of all kinds, as well as Manila paper, are brought to this country every year, millions of dollars worth; and the plant that supplies the fibre for it grows wherever it can get the slightest foothold in this part of the State, and it has never been known to be injured by such cold as we have in the winter down here. The leaves of another plant, Sansevieria, furnish a fibre that can be used for the heaviest rope or a dress fabric as fine as silk. These last two plants do not need even ordinary attention; only plant them and they take care of themselves. If there is a drought, they look green and happy; if there is a flood, they look only greener and happier.

Nothing grows more luxuriantly down here than all kinds of Bamboo. We import \$2,000,000 worth of Bamboo from China and Japan every year. This is another plant that needs nothing in the way of cultivation, although no doubt it would profit thereby.

So many are the useful plants that would grow most profitably down here that the list would swell this article to most unseemly proportions, but the interested investigator can get all the information he wants by applying to our Board of Trade for it.

Plants and trees that produce the milk that makes rubber also grow readily, as can be testified to by growers of tropical shrubbery in various parts of our county.

No one has yet made a specialty of growing Mangoes and Avocado Pears for the Northern markets. The latter makes a delicious salad served up in the same manner as lettuce. Recently I saw in Fort Myers an Avocado pear tree that was four years old from the seed, and it must have been fifteen or twenty feet high and loaded with fruit. There are many trees of this delicate vegetable-fruit grown in that charming town, by private citizens; and when it gets into the market, it is seldom they can be bought for less than ten cents each. This gives some idea of the profit there should be in growing this rare fruit.

Pineapple plants bear fruit in from 12 to 18 months from planting; and with the new method of covering them with swamp-grass to prevent sunburn, there is no reason why many acres of this luscious fruit might not pay handsomely.

These are a few of the inducements held out to settlers on our homestead lands. There are many more, but time and space forbid a continuance of this subject, but enough has been said to serve as pointers, and investigation and experiment will prove that the half has not been told.

J. H. HANCOCK, Vice-Pres.
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